

OSA 4892-63

10 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, WE Division, DD/P

SUBJECT : Request for Follow-on CS Report

25X1A REFERENCE : CS Report No. 3/555,531, Dated 5 August 1963;  
Subject: "Missile Fired at [ ] Plane"

1. In connection with our continuing investigation of the technological reasons behind the 27 October 1962 shoot-down of a SAC U-2 aircraft over Cuba, the Office of Special Activities has a requirement for follow-up on the referenced CS Report, which appears to offer interesting possibilities for further exploitation.

25X1A 2. A considerable effort was made by SAC and CIA, as well as the Pathology Laboratory at Walter Reed Hospital, to extrapolate information about [ ] accident through autopsy and examination of the personal effects of the officer which were returned to the United States by the Cubans with the body. In particular great interest was stimulated by a ferrite metal fragment found in the body by Walter Reed personnel conducting the autopsy. Unfortunately, the sample was so small as to indicate very little about the technology of the weapon which is presumed to have brought the aircraft down, and in particular it was difficult to determine the composition of the warhead from the only sample recovered. We are, therefore, greatly interested in pursuing with the source questions relating to the condition of the body of [ ] since it appears from the preamble to the CS Report that he may have been one of the surgeons called in by the military to not only examine the body, but possible to surgically remove the many metal fragments which had been excised from the remains prior to its shipment to the United States. We regard this as a potentially important source to be developed, since all of the current level of our intelligence on the accident stems from the few news photographs released at the time and the examination of [ ] body only after certain critical pieces of information had been carefully removed.

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3. If it is possible to recontact the source, we would appreciate responses to the following questions which have been drawn up by personnel in the Engineering Analysis Division of OSA and the Air Defense Branch of OSI:

a. What relationship, if any, did source have with Soviets or Cuban military that allowed him to examine the body?

b. Did source do the autopsy or witness the autopsy?  
(Autopsy herein to mean close examination.)

c. Did source note the size, shape, weight, substance, etc., of projectiles, pellets, or foreign objects in the body?

d. Were there any powder burns or burns of any type on the body?

e. Does source recall locations of punctures on body (i.e., right chest and upper right arm, or back of neck and shoulder areas)?

f. Does source recall angle of entry of projectiles into body?

g. Does source remember density of projectile penetrations and were the penetrations in parallel (as opposed to random ricochets off airframe structural members)?

h. Size of punctures.

i. Depth of penetration of projectiles.

j. Source should be questioned closely for a physical description of color, shape, and coarseness of projectiles. (Example: Aluminum shrapnel from the missile skin would differ from actual warhead projectiles.)

k. Source should also be queried on time sequence involved in the shoot-down, his proximity to the action, and particularly, on

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time elapsed between incident and his viewing the body. An attempt should be made to screen out hearsay from his own personal observations in this question.

4. Because we attach considerable priority interest to this source, we would appreciate it if you would give this matter your immediate attention and perhaps request recontact in the Field by cable rather than dispatch. If you take this course, we would appreciate being furnished information copies of the outgoing and incoming messages.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Deputy Assistant Director  
(Special Activities)

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